



### The Ivy Academy



The Ivy Academy was founded based on *leaving no child behind*, where we believe all children deserve access to high quality early education, in an environment that is designed with the highest quality, and function in mind. The Ivy Academy of Early Learning Inc. is a non-profit child development center serving Elgin in Cook and Kane counties. Our goal is to help all children reach their optimal development.

Our founder, Amy Hitchinson is passionate about children's wellbeing, having dedicated her entire professional career to families, childcare and early learning. This mom and entrepreneur is known as both a motivator and a problem solver because she takes a no-nonsense, direct approach with parents, employees, industry peers, and government agencies – she's always focused on the best interests of the children and families she serves. She forges community links and collaborations with groups for family and children, co-authored "Parent's Rights for Disabled Children" for the Illinois State Board of Education. Amy earned many academic achievements, including Dean List, Trustees Honors, Magna cum Laude, Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Humanistic Behaviors, and Master's in Early Childhood Education. Ms. Hitchinson is active with several community groups and organizations in Cook and Kane Counties -Illinois, she is a founding member of the Illinois Daycare Owners Association, and a regular contributor to the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

Board member, Joshua Harris is very involved with the day to day operations, after spending 20 years running his successful firm, providing high-end residential restoration and building churches, and real estate and business investing and all that entailed, Joshua diversified into his current role as treasurer and design development of The Ivy Academy. His adaptive and logical approach to finding solutions helps The Ivy Academy thrive even when no two days are the same. And his uncompromising dedication to quality keeps our students safe as he maintains and rehabs our centers.

All of the members of the board are extremely active with our centers. The board consist of bankers, community leaders, retired executives, and industry leaders.

The teaching staff within all our schools strives to exceed the industry standard, having a board of directors that continues to support the mission, providing opportunities to continue educational goals, in-service training and reaching goals for accreditation programs. The Ivy Academy has to this date, assisted over 17 staff members in reaching their academic goals! The future continues with 5 staff members in the process of completing their degree this fall.

All of this and more is why The Ivy Academy is where your child will experience positive development through constructive play activities. Our Infant/Toddler, Preschool and daycare programs provide specialized attention to your child (6 wks to 4 yr) in a nurturing, educational and fun environment. We offer both full and half Kindergarten programs (5yr - 6 yr) as well as Before-school and After-school programs (6y to 12y). Summer Camp offered from Preschool through to School age. We provide more than just daycare – the center is devoted to fulfilling the needs of the entire family while providing the highest standard of care for your child. Our standards exceed the Department of Children and Family Services minimum requirements and endeavors to obtain the highest level of accreditation from the Quality Rating System (QRS). Many of our families consider The Ivy Academy a “private school” providing low ratios and higher-level educational opportunities. We are able to meet the individual academic needs of the children with the Teaching Strategies ® and Creative Curriculum ® we work together with the parent with Ages & Stages ® providing a well-rounded educational experience. We work with Junior Achievement, and the AVID programs in our Elgin location as well.

The academy is an advocate for our young children and families, providing resources and relevant information regarding early childhood issues to teachers, families, the community, and other interested agencies. Each day is a chance to form meaningful collaborations with our families as we provide safe, healthy, and loving care to children.

We'd love to include your family, too.